International Seabed Authority ISBA/24/LTC/9

Legal and Technical Commission

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Agenda item 5
Status of the implementation of training programmes under plans of work for exploration and the allocation of training opportunities

Selection of candidates for training programmes under plans of work for exploration

Recommendations by the Legal and Technical Commission

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to their contracts for exploration with the International Seabed Authority, Global Sea Mineral Resources NV (GSR), JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya, Deep Ocean Resources Development Co. Ltd. (DORD) and China Minmetals Corporation (CMC) submitted training proposals to the secretariat.

2. At its meeting held on 12 March 2018, the Legal and Technical Commission appointed a subgroup to evaluate and recommend candidates for training opportunities. It had been agreed that the subgroup would work with the secretariat between sessions to identify appropriate candidates for training opportunities (see ISBA/20/LTC/13, paras. 11–13). In selecting candidates, the subgroup considered the relevant regulations and the principles, policies and procedures applicable to the training programmes, in particular the recommendations for the guidance of contractors and sponsoring States relating to training programmes under plans of work for exploration (ISBA/19/LTC/14).

3. Owing to the scheduling demands for the training opportunities offered by GSR and JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya in 2018, the subgroup appointed during the previous session was required to select candidates prior to the July 2018 meetings of the Commission. To accommodate the contractors' requests, the subgroup made intersessional selections by means of email communication. The other selections, however, were made according to the normal selection process during part II of the 2018 session.

4. Candidates were selected on the basis of the qualification criteria provided by each contractor for their respective programmes, in particular language proficiency, educational background, work experience, potential career development, reasons for

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seeking training, expected benefit to the candidates' countries of origin and other merits specified in the application material. In addition to those considerations, due regard was paid to gender balance and equitable geographical distribution, in particular the interests and needs of landlocked and geographically disadvantaged developing States, as requested by the Council in a decision adopted at the twentieth session (see ISBA/20/C/31, para. 6).

II. Intersessional selection of candidates

5. On 9 November 2017, GSR submitted a training proposal pursuant to its contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules signed with the Authority on 14 January 2014. In its proposal, GSR offered five training opportunities, including one fellowship for a master's degree programme in marine and lacustrine science and management (see ISBA/24/LTC/5, para. 13). During the March meeting of the Commission, the subgroup recommended that, given the very small number of applicants (three), the fellowship be re-advertised and that the secretariat make a concerted effort to attract enough qualified applicants.

6. On 22 February 2018, JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya submitted a training proposal pursuant to its contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules signed with the Authority on 29 March 2001. In its proposal, JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya offered a theoretical and at-sea training opportunity in the field of geology for six candidates. The first part of the training programme will be held at Saint Petersburg State University for approximately two weeks, between October and November 2018. The second part, the scientific cruise, is to be conducted on board the research vessel *Gelendzhik* in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone for about 60 days, between the fourth quarter of 2018 and the second quarter of 2019.

7. The training opportunities were sent to the members of the Authority for the purpose of nominating candidates. They were also advertised on the website of the Authority and through social media platforms. The following applications were evaluated:

(a) GSR fellowship: 23 applications (10 from the African Group, 5 from the Asia-Pacific Group, 7 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group and 1 from the Eastern European Group; 9 women and 14 men);

(b) JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya training programme: 31 applications (16 from the African Group, 6 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 9 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 10 women and 21 men).

8. On the basis of the selection criteria and recommendations approved by the Commission, and taking into account consultations between the contractors and the secretariat, the subgroup recommended to the Commission the following first-ranked candidates and alternates for the aforementioned training programmes:

Global Sea Mineral Resources NV fellowship

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidate		
1. Shymbaliova Nadzeya	Female	Belarus
Alternates		
1. Beatriz Melo	Female	Brazil
2. Jerahmeel Tilto	Female	Papua New Guinea
3. Ahmed Adam	Male	Somalia

JSC Yuzhmorgeologiya

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates		
1. José Isola	Male	Argentina
2. Beatriz Melo	Female	Brazil
3. Amina Makori	Female	Kenya
4. Abi Dzikri Alghifari	Male	Indonesia
5. Aruggoda Kapuge	Female	Sri Lanka
6. Maria Alvarez	Female	Argentina
Alternates		
1. Pantarak Channarong	Male	Thailand
2. Fermin Palma	Male	Argentina
3. Warsame Atteyeh	Male	Somalia

III. Selection of candidates in July 2018

9. During its meetings held from 2 to 13 July 2018, the Commission met to advise the Secretary-General on the selection of candidates for training programmes proposed by DORD, GSR and CMC.

10. On 1 March, DORD submitted a training proposal pursuant to its contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules signed with the Authority on 20 June 2001. In its proposal, DORD offered five at-sea training places on board the research vessel *Hakurei*. The 40-day-long programme is planned to take place between July and August 2019 and will be conducted in two phases. Phase 1 will be a 15-day-long geological cruise survey, while phase 2 will be a 25-day-long post-cruise training course. Training on board will include marine seismic reflection surveys, marine surveys using magnetometer and gravimeter, and marine geological mapping, as well as practical training on exploration technology for marine mineral resources.

11. On 4 April, GSR submitted a training proposal pursuant to its contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules. In its proposal, GSR offered two offshore internship opportunities, which will take place in the first half of 2019, in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone. For four to six weeks, one trainee will integrate the GSR geological and geotechnical team; while the other trainee will work on topics covering the environmental and biological aspects of the offshore campaign of 2019.

12. On 23 April, CMC submitted a training proposal pursuant to its contract for exploration for polymetallic nodules signed with the Authority on 12 May 2017. In its proposal, CMC offered four training places under two programmes, namely, two positions for an at-sea environmental exploration cruise in 2018 and two positions for an at-sea geological exploration cruise in 2019.

13. The training proposals were sent to members of the Authority for the purpose of nominating candidates. They were also advertised on the website of the Authority and through social media platforms. The subgroup evaluated the following applications during part II of the Commission's session:

(a) DORD training programme: 33 applications (17 from the African Group, 9 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 7 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 8 women and 25 men);

(b) GSR training programme: 28 applications (18 from the African Group, 6 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 4 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 10 women and 18 men);

(c) CMC training programme: 35 applications (22 from the African Group, 7 from the Asia-Pacific Group and 6 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; 10 women and 25 men).

14. The final recommendations are as follows:

Deep Ocean Resources Development training programme

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates		
1. Francisco Ponce-Núñez	Male	Mexico
2. Shahtaj Karim	Female	Bangladesh
3. Augustin Didier Pepogo Man-Mvele	Male	Cameroon
4. Marika Ritova	Male	Fiji
5. Juan Pablo Ormazabal	Male	Argentina
Alternates		
1. Ajibola Oyebamiji	Female	Nigeria
2. Adam N. B. Purnomo	Male	Indonesia
3. Mohamed Elsaied	Male	Egypt
4. Rajib Saha	Male	Bangladesh

Global Sea Mineral Resources NV training programme

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidate (Geology)		
1. Fermín Palma	Male	Argentina
Alternates		
1. Otobong Ndukwe	Female	Nigeria
2. Jakrapun Khamboonruang	Male	Thailand
First-ranked candidate (Environment)		
1. Sayakkara Mesthrilage Athukorala	Female	Sri Lanka
Alternate		
1. Hamdy Abotaleb	Male	Egypt

China Minmetals Corporation training programme

Name	*Gender*	*Country of origin*
First-ranked candidates (Environment)		
1. María Emilia Bravo	Female	Argentina
2. Mohamad Abu Hassan	Male	Malaysia
Alternate		
1. Tosapon Sungsirin	Male	Thailand
First-ranked candidates (Geology)		
1. Kyaw Win Thet Paing	Female	Myanmar
2. Warsame Atteyeh	Male	Somalia
Alternates		
1. Keith Tuunde	Male	Uganda
2. Fidelis Onah	Male	Nigeria
3. Taiwo Bolaji	Male	Nigeria

15. The Commission accepted the recommendations of the subgroup regarding the list of preferred candidates for the training programmes.